IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 13 and 15 and add new Claims 18-21 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum container having a first substrate and a second substrate arranged so as to face each other as components comprising, within said vacuum container:

a spacer ~~disposed at~~ supported on ~~the~~ said first substrate or ~~the~~ said second substrate so as to maintain an interval between ~~the~~ said first substrate and ~~the~~ said second substrate, said spacer having a height extending in a first direction substantially perpendicular to planar surfaces of said first and second substrates and a length extending in a longitudinal direction substantially parallel with said planar surfaces; and

~~wherein said spacer is fixed within said vacuum container via~~ a supporting member provided at ~~said spacer~~ a longitudinal end of said spacer and fixing said spacer within said vacuum container without said spacer contacting ~~the~~ said supporting substrate ~~where said spacer is disposed~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A vacuum container according to Claim 1, wherein said spacer is fixed to ~~the~~ said substrate where said spacer is disposed, via ~~the~~ said supporting member provided at said spacer without contacting the substrate where said spacer is disposed.

3. (Currently Amended) A vacuum container according to Claim 2, wherein said supporting member is connected to ~~the~~ said substrate by means of a first connecting member.

4. (Original) A vacuum container according to Claim 3, wherein said supporting member is connected to said spacer by means of a second connecting member.

5. (Currently Amended) An image display apparatus comprising, within a vacuum container according to Claim 1[[;]], comprising:

a plurality of electron emission elements arranged on ~~the~~ said first substrate; and

an image display member arranged on ~~the~~ said second substrate.

6. (Currently Amended) An image display apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said spacer is disposed on wires for driving said plurality of electron emission elements arranged on ~~the~~ said first substrate.

7. (Original) An image display apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said supporting member is disposed outside of an electron emission region.

8. (Currently Amended) A vacuum container having a first substrate and a second substrate arranged so as to face each other as components comprising, within said vacuum container:

a spacer ~~disposed at the~~ supported on said first substrate or ~~the~~ said second substrate so as to maintain an interval between ~~the~~ said first substrate and ~~the~~ said second substrate, said spacer having a height extending in a first direction substantially perpendicular to planar surfaces of said first and second substrates and a length extending in a longitudinal direction substantially parallel with said planar surfaces; and

~~wherein said spacer is fixed within said vacuum container via~~ a supporting member provided at ~~said spacer with~~ a longitudinal end of said spacer and fixing said spacer within said vacuum container so as to provide a gap ~~with the~~ between said spacer and said supporting substrate ~~where said spacer is disposed~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A vacuum container according to Claim 8, wherein said spacer is fixed to ~~the~~ said substrate where said spacer is disposed, via ~~the~~ said supporting member provided at said spacer with a gap with ~~the~~ said substrate where said spacer is disposed.

10. (Currently Amended) A vacuum container according to Claim 9, wherein said supporting member is connected to ~~the~~ said substrate by means of a first connecting member.

11. (Original) A vacuum container according to Claim 10, wherein said supporting member is connected to said spacer by means of a second connecting member.

12. (Currently Amended) An image display apparatus comprising, within a vacuum container according to Claim 8[[;]], comprising:

electron emission elements arranged on ~~the~~ said first substrate; and

an image display member arranged on ~~the~~ said second substrate.

13. (Currently Amended) An image display apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said spacer is disposed on wires for driving said plurality of electron emission elements arranged on ~~the~~ said first substrate.

14. (Original) An image display apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said supporting member is disposed outside of an electron-emission region.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a vacuum container having a first substrate and a second substrate arranged so as to face each other as components, and a spacer disposed at the first substrate or the second substrate within the vacuum container, said method comprising the steps of:

~~fixing a supporting member on a surface other than a surface of disposition of the spacer with respect to the concerned substrate at both ends of the spacer with a distance from the surface of disposition; and~~

~~disposing~~ supporting the spacer ~~where the supporting member is fixed~~ at on the first substrate or the second substrate ~~and fixing the supporting member on the substrate where the spacer is disposed~~ so as to maintain an interval between the first substrate and the second substrate, the spacer having a height extending in a first direction substantially

perpendicular to planar surfaces of the first and second substrates and a length extending in a longitudinal direction substantially parallel with the planar surfaces; and

providing a supporting member at a longitudinal end of the spacer and fixing the spacer within the vacuum container so as to provide a gap between the spacer and the supporting substrate.

16. (Original) A method for manufacturing an image display apparatus having a vacuum container having a first substrate and a second substrate arranged so as to face each other as components, and a spacer, electron emission elements on the first substrate, and an image display member on the second substrate that are disposed within the vacuum container, said method comprising the step of:

manufacturing the vacuum container according to a method according to Claim 15.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the spacer is disposed on wires for driving the plurality of electron emission elements arranged on the first substrate.

18. (New) A vacuum container according to Claim 1, wherein said supporting member includes a groove for receiving a longitudinal end of said spacer.

19. (New) A vacuum container according to Claim 8, wherein said supporting member includes a groove for receiving a longitudinal end of said spacer.

20. (New) An image display apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said plurality of electron emission elements include a cold cathode.

21. (New) An image display apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said electron emission elements include a cold cathode.